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INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

AGENDA

BUSINESS SESSION

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C_O_N_T_E_N_T_S

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5.2 Conspectus of action on previous Resolutions and Recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission (40th-47th Session)

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Further to the information placed before the Commission at its 47th and earlier sessions on the resolutions and recommendations of the 40th to 47th Sessions, replies received from the State/Union Territory Governments, Universities, Learned Institutions and others are summarised below:

5.2.1 Resolutions of the 40th Session, Madras, 18-20th February, 1970.

5.2.1.1 Resolution VIII: The Commission resolves that to facilitate the consultation of records preserved by them the Record Repositories of the State Governments be requested to prepare and publish consolidated guides to their pre-Independence records.

Gujarat: Instructions have been issued to the Central Record Office, Rajkot, Vadodara and District Record Office, Junagadh for preparing the consolidated guides to the pre-independence records.

Kerala: The bulk of the records are kept in the three repositories under the State Archives Department but no comprehensive lists or catalogues of these records have yet been prepared. The department has published a general guide to the records entitled "An Introduction to the Kerala State Archives" in 1975 which gives just but a bird's eye-view of the holdings of this department.

Rajasthan: A brief introductory guide has already been printed and the publication of a consolidated guide is under way.

West Bengal: The State Archives published a revised edition of a "Guide" to the records preserved in that Archives Department.

5.2.1.2 Resolution IX: To facilitate genuine research work at the State Archives, the Commission resolves to recommend to the State Governments to dispense with the scrutiny of excerpts taken by research scholars from all 'open' records.

Rajasthan: The resolution has been implemented by the State Archives.

5.2.1.3 Resolution XIII: The Commission resolves to recommend to the State Governments that the records of the National Movement, especially from 1885-1947, in the custody of the offices of the Home Department and other Offices/Departments and quasi-Government Offices may be transferred to the State Archives and thrown open for research where this has not been done already.

Gujarat: The Government has issued an instruction to all Government offices to transfer the records pertaining to the National Movement specially from 1885-1947.

Kerala: With the construction of a modern Archives building in Trivandrum which is expected to be taken up shortly the suggestion of transfer of records, now in the possession of the various Departments of the Government could be implemented to the custody of the State Archives.

Rajasthan: The resolution is under the consideration of the Government.

West Bengal: The records of the Indian National Movement in the Home Department and other offices are in the process of transfer to the State Archives.

5.2.1.4 Resolution XVI: The Commission recommends that a typed copy of all theses bearing on Modern Indian History, approved by the Indian Universities for the award of Ph.D. Degree should be deposited in National Archives of India for consultation by scholars as soon as the result is declared where Universities find it difficult to deposit a copy in the National Archives, one should be sent to it to be microfilmed for the use of scholars.

Benaras Hindu University: The spirit of the resolution is appreciated and this would be placed before the Academic Council for approval.

Vikram University: The university has agreed to accept the resolution.

5.2.1.5 Resolution XVII: The Commission notices that the State Archives in a number of States are issuing Indexes, Lists, Calendars and other invaluable record publications, but the number of copies printed is very limited. The Commission recommends that the institutions concerned should print not less than 500 copies and the same should be supplied free of cost to all the University Libraries, Post-Graduate centres of historical research, learned institutions and premier libraries.

Rajasthan: The resolution has been implemented by the State Archives.

West Bengal: The reference media brought out by the State Archives are being sent regularly to the National Archives and other State Archives as complimentary copies

5.2.2 Resolutions of the 41st Session, Trivendrum, 9th-11th October, 1971.

5.2.2.1 Resolution III: The Indian Historical Records Commission places on record its appreciation of the steps taken by the National Archives of India during the last two years for expediting the compilation of reference media to the various series of the records in its custody. But, as the volume of records for which the reference media has to be prepared is very large, the Government of India is urged to sanction adequate staff for this essential aspect of Archives Administration. Similar programmes may be taken up by State Archives Departments also which face the same problem.

Gujarat: The Rajkot, Vadodara and Junagadh offices have started preparing reference media. However, the Government will be moved to sanction adequate staff for such work.

Haryana: Haryana State Archives has undertaken this work under its scheme "Reference Media".

Rajasthan: The State Archives is regularly compiling the reference media and adequate staff has been recruited for editing purposes.

5.2.2.2 Resolution IV: Resolved that in the interest of completeness of official records of historical value, weeding of records at the various levels by untrained persons be stopped.

Gujarat: The Resolution has been accepted and all the Government departments have been asked not to weed out the records unless these are examined by the staff of the State Archives.

5.2.2.3 Resolution V: The Commission is of the view that it is imperative to take all necessary steps to ensure the proper maintenance and preservation of all Public Records in the States, whether current, semi-current or non-current. The State Governments are, therefore, requested to implement urgently the recommendations already made by the Commission (vide Resolutions VII and XIII of the 38th Session)/ and (i) District Records more than 30 years old to the control of the State Archives and (ii) declare their Directors of State Archives to be inspecting authority for the non-current records of the State Offices at all levels, as also of the local bodies viz. Municipalities, Zilla Parishads, etc. in the State.

Gujarat: The Government have passed the Archival Policy Resolution in which the recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission have been included.

Rajasthan: The Resolution has been accepted in principle.

5.2.2.4 Resolution VII: This Commission appeals to the concerned authorities of Temples, Gurdwaras, Churches, Khankahs, Waqfs etc. to allow bonafide research scholars to consult their documents for research purposes, and the scholars who are allowed access to these records may, if necessary, voluntarily prepare the lists of these records.

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5.2.2.5 Resolution VIII: This Commission appeals to the authorities maintaining the records of the Temples, Mathas, Churches, Mosques, Gurdwaras etc. to ensure their proper preservation and if possible, to deposit these documents with the various Archives or Learned Institutions for safe custody.

Rajasthan: The matter is under the consideration of the State Government.

5.2.2.6 Resolution XI: The Commission places on record its appreciation of the effective and energetic steps taken by its Secretary in implementing some of its important recommendations, such as those concerning the preperation of the Manual of Archives, and the publication of records pertaining to Partition and Transfer of Power, and the compilation of reference media. It also approves of the policy of issuing cyclostyled publications, particularly the reference media to records, with a view to facilitating research. Similar steps may also be taken by the State Directors of Archives.

Rajasthan: The Resolution has been implemented in principle.

5.2.2.7 Resolution XII: Keeping in view the enormous problems created by the evergrowing bulk of records, the Commission appreciates the lead presently given by the National Archives of India and the Department of Administrative Reforms, Government of India, in the sphere of management of records of the Union Government and their time bound appraisal. It also notes with satisfaction the steps taken by some State Governments for weeding of their non-essential records. The Commission urges all those State Governments and Union Territories which have not yet initiated such a programme on a regular basis to do so urgently with a view to economising in the long run on the upkeep and preservation of their permanent records. The concerned governments may consult, if necessary, the National Archives of India for this purpose.

Gujarat: The appraisal and weeding of old B class records of princely states have been undertaken by the State Archives. Committees have also been formed to look into the records which are to be weeded out so that no valuable records are destroyed.

5.2.2.8 Resolution XIV: Resolved that the State Governments be requested to open Regional, or Divisional Archives in each Commissioner's Division, where the non-ephemeral records of all the Collectorates etc. in the Division may be collected and preserved under the overall control and supervision of the Director of the State Archives. This is absolutely essential for the purpose of not only preservation of papers, but also for promoting the writing of regional history.

Rajasthan: The State Archives has established seven regional branches.

5.2.2.9 Resolution XV: Resolved that the Commission recommends to the authorities of the National Archives of India and of State Archives to make available to bonafide research scholars residential accommodation at reasonable rates. Furthermore, it recommends for the consideration of the Ministry of Education at the Centre and in the States to put up hostels which will cater to the needs of such research scholars.

Gujarat: The proposal will be submitted to the State Government for consideration.

West Bengal: At present there is no arrangement for residential accommodation for research scholars. The matter may be considered at the time of planning the proposed new building of the State Archives.

5.2.3 Resolutions of the 42nd Session, Panaji (Goa) 5th-7th January, 1973.

5.2.3.1 Resolution VI: Resolved that keeping in view the urgency of salvaging and preserving the extremely valuable Government records lying in various offices in the District Headquarters and in the various field offices of the Central and State Governments, the Central and State Governments be strongly urged to open maximum number of Intermediate Record Centres on priority basis, within their respective areas, to collect, list and preserve these records. These Record Centres should be fully manned with qualified staff and equipped with repair and reprographic facilities. The facilities should be available, not only for the Government records but should also be extended to the libraries, learned institutions and individual scholars who have valuable private records, manuscripts etc. in their

Gujarat: The Government has set up Central Record Offices at Vadodara, Rajkot and a District Record Office, at Junagadh under the administrative control of the State Archives. They will be converted into intermediate record centres and full facilities will be provided in these respective records centres. The State Archives has also undertaken a programme to train the staff and put the record offices under their charge.

Rajasthan: The State Archives has established seven Regional branches at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota, Alwar, Bharatpur and Ajmer.

5.2.3.2 Resolution VII: Resolved that the Central and State Governments may be requested to throw open records relating to the persons and parties involved in political movements during pre-Independence days which were in the custody of Intelligence Bureau, the State Police Departments and Departments of Criminal Investigation for use of research scholars.

West Bengal: The records of the Police and Criminal Investigation Departments are under the custody of the creating agencies. The scholars are required to approach these offices directly for consultation of their records.

5.2.3.3 Resolution IX: Resolved that this body requests the State Governments to enact a law to bring under overall supervision of the State Archival Services, records preserved by private bodies like maths, temples, churches, societies, libraries, museums, universities and learned institutions in their respective States.

Karnataka: The spirit behind the resolution can be appreciated. But the State Archives cannot press the State Government over the matter as it feels that such

5.2.3.4 Resolution X: Resolved that the Government of India be requested to introduce the promised legislation on Archives as early as possible.

National Archives of India: The idea of a single law applicable to the records of the Union and the State Governments has been abandoned because no State Government has requested the Central legislature to frame such a law on their behalf. As such the Government of India is now working for the enactment of a Public Records Act concerning ~~with~~ the records of the Union Government and the Administration of Union Territories. In accordance with the decision taken in the Inter-Ministerial meeting held on 10th November, 1981, a comprehensive note on the subject to be placed before the Secretaries Committee of the Government of India was prepared and sent to the Department of Culture.

So far State Governments of Maharashtra, Orissa, Haryana, Gujarat and Kerala and Delhi Administration have issued Archival Policy Resolutions. Remaining States/Union Territories are being pursuaded to have their own Archival Policy Resolutions.

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Smt. Anna Malhotra, Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture on 11 December, 1981 and it was decided that the Antiquities and Art Treasure Act of 1972 should be amended so as to cover records, manuscripts and documents of historical importance and to prevent their unwarranted destruction and illegal trade. The matter is under process of the Government of India.

5.2.3.5 Resolution XI: Resolved that all State Governments should evolve as early as possible a well articulated retirement policy for their records and prepare retention schedules for records at all levels in line with the rules of the Central Government.

Gujarat: The State Government have issued orders to prepare retention schedules in consultations with the State Archives. The Government have also adopted Archival Policy Resolution on the lines those of Government of India.

Rajasthan: The retention schedule has been prepared in cooperation with the Administrative Department and the orders have been circulated regarding the weeding of non-essential records and transfer of valuable and important records to their respective record rooms.

West Bengal: The matter is under the active consideration of the State Government.

5.2.4 Resolutions of the 43rd Session held at Lucknow, 28th-29th January, 1975.

5.2.4.1 Resolution IV: Resolved that every effort should be made to reactivise the Regional Records Survey Committees by seeking as far as possible the assistance of the Indian Council of Historical Research and the University Grants Commission through the Universities already represented on the different Regional Records Survey Committees.

Kerala: The matter has been taken up with the Universities of Kerala, Calicut and Cochin, and their replies are awaited.

Rajasthan: The Regional Records Survey Committee has been reconstituted in the State.

West Bengal: The West Bengal Regional Records Survey Committee has been reconstituted with the Director of State Archives as ex-officio Member-Secretary and Convener of the Committee.

5.2.5 Resolutions of the 44th Session held at Bikaner, 21st-22nd February, 1976.

5.2.5.1 Resolution II: To enable the people to appreciate the historical background of our contemporary national efforts towards a new system of land relations, the National Archives, the different State Archives, and the Universities and learned institutions are requested to bring out monographs on relevant subjects, particularly to indicate the evolving pattern of land rights, together with specimens of the different land records at the village level in different parts of the country at different times. The Standing Committee of the Commission is requested to work out a phased programme and to coordinate the countrywide effort.

Delhi: As this Archives Department is not in possession of monographs, the work of publication cannot be taken up. However all necessary assistance will be provided to the research scholars connected with such projects.

West Bengal: The State Archives has at present no such plan for publication.

5.2.5.2 Resolution IV: Keeping in view the great importance of records extant in different Indian languages and in Persian, the Commission recommends the publication of selections from these records in extenso, with translations, annotations and critical introductions, for the convenience of scholars not similar with the old language and scripts in question. The Standing Committee of the Commission is requested to coordinate the programme and to indicate priorities.

Delhi: Archives Department has already taken up the translation work of Historical Documents in vernacular languages and for this purpose one post each of oriental Assistant and Hindi Technical Assistant has been sanctioned in the Department. The work of the publication of these documents will be taken up at the appropriate time.

Tamil Nadu: At present the State Government is not in a position to take up such projects. However in the meantime every care will be taken to preserve the records referred to above properly. Now the State Archives has undertaken the work of publishing select documents from english records.

5.2.5.3 Resolution VI: Resolved that the posts of the Director of Archives both at the Centre as well as in the States be filled up only by those who possess archival qualifications or have adequate experience of holding some responsible post in an archival repository of the country.

Gujarat: The resolution has already been implemented by the State Government.

Kerala: State Government have prescribed "Diploma in Archives Keeping and Administration" as one of the qualifications for the post of Director of Archives.

Rajasthan: The State Archives has kept this provision in the state archival service rules.

5.2.5.4 Resolution VIII: Resolved that an Oral History Records Office be established as a part of the National Archives whose purpose should be to record on tape and then transcribe the recollections of men who have played an important part in recent history as well as the reactions of those who have seen history made. The different State Archives should also take up this urgent work.

Gujarat: The Government have accepted the resolution and an order has been placed to purchase a tape recorder in this behalf.

Kerala: With a view to establish an Oral History Section, the State Government has sanctioned purchase of a tape recorder of good quality.

Rajasthan: The State Government has accepted the resolution and plans to implement it from 1982.

5.2.6 Resolutions of the 45th Session, Mysore, 1st-2nd February, 1977.

5.2.6.1 Resolution II: Resolved to reiterate the earlier Resolutions that the Universities should organise Archival Cells for preserving their records on scientific lines. It is further recommended that necessary assistance may be obtained from the University Grants Commission in this behalf.

Gujarat Vidyapith: The University Grants Commission has been approached for sanctioning an Archival Cell in the Vidyapith.

5.2.6.2 Resolution III: In view of the importance and urgent necessity of preserving old records, resolved that the State Governments be requested to give high priority to the development of Archives in their 6th Plan proposals, and the Central Government should give special grants for specific schemes to the extent possible.

Kerala: The State Government have drawn up the following schemes for the development of Archives (i) adoption of de-acidification method, (ii) microfilming of records of paramount importance, (iii) reorganisation of the publication division, (iv) starting of a documentation cell and (v) a map unit.

Rajasthan: The State Archives has been sanctioned enough funds in the Sixth Five Year Plan for implementation of various schemes by the State Government.

5.2.6.3 Resolution IV: Resolved that a system of 'National Readers Cards' be introduced, as it would facilitate and encourage genuine research in the country, and custodians of records at the all India as well as the State level, should honour these cards.

National Archives of India: The National Archives of India has got printed 2000 cards to be issued to Indian Research Scholars. The State Archives have been requested to send their demands so that the cards may be issued to them on payment.

5.2.7 Resolutions of the 46th Session, Aurangabad, 12th-14th January, 1979.

5.2.7.1 Resolution II: "The Indian Historical Records Commission hereby appeals to learned societies, research institutions and State Governments to take special steps to preserve and maintain journals in Indian languages published during the nineteenth century and requests the members of the Commission to take an initiative in the matter whenever possible.

Gujarat: The State Archives has issued a circular to all the Universities, Learned Institutions, Research Organisations in the State with a request to take proper action to preserve the magazines in Indian languages published during the nineteenth century.

Jammu & Kashmir: The resolution has been noted. The State Archives is issuing instructions through the Registrar, National Register of Records to all the institutions to preserve and maintain journals in Indian languages, published during the nineteenth century.

Kerala: There are hardly any nineteenth century journals in Indian languages in the custody of the State Archives. The resolution would, however, be kept in mind whenever such journals fall in its possession in the course of its survey.

5.2.7.2 Resolution III: Resolved that provision for a separate research room be made for Research Scholars in the State Archives in order to facilitate their research work as well as to improve the working condition of the personnel of the State Archives.

Jammu & Kashmir: The State Archives has provided a separate room for Research Scholars in both the Divisional Archives Repositories at Srinagar and Jammu.

5.2.7.3 Resolution VI: The Indian Historical Records Commission reiterates its earlier resolutions No.IV of 1958 and V of 1976 passed at its 34th Session and 44th Session respectively and again strongly urges that the States and Centrally administered territories which have no Records Offices should immediately establish their own Records Offices and begin to collect and conserve Records of historical and cultural value in addition to the current administrative records.

Arunachal Pradesh: A modest beginning on scientific lines has been made by setting up an Archives Department attached to the Research Department with two Archivists. A full-fledged separate Archives Department would be established when the volume of work grows to warrant it.

On invitation one Assistant Director, National Archives of India visited Itanagar in September, 1981 to discuss various problems in connection with the setting up of an organised Archives Department and rendered proper guidelines in this behalf.

Himachal Pradesh: The question of setting up of a State Archives in Himachal Pradesh had been engaging the attention of the State Government. The Estimate Committee of Vidhan Sabha of this State has also reiterated for its early setting up. The Government took steps to establish a State Archives and one Officer was deputed for One Year Diploma Course training in the School of Archival Studies in the National Archives of India. After the completion of his training he has been entrusted with the preliminary work for the establishment of the Archives. Three more members of the staff have also been recruited and one Microfilm Reader and Microfilming Camera procured in the State Archives.

The Government has allotted a building for housing the archives. The building is presently occupied by the Education Department and as soon as the building is vacated the State Archives will start functioning to collect and conserve Records of historical importance.

Lakshadweep: The Administration has submitted a supplementary plan to the Ministry of Education and Culture for setting up of an Archival Repository cum Museum in this Union Territory.

Manipur: The Government of Manipur has decided to open a State Archives Unit very soon. Some of the preliminary arrangements like creation of a few posts etc. have already been completed.

On invitation of the Government of Manipur one Assistant Director, National Archives of India visited Imphal in September 1981 for rendering proper guidelines in connection with setting up of State Archives.

Meghalaya: An Archival Wing in the Education Department has been created under the charge of a Deputy Director, but for want of adequate accommodation the State Archives could not be set up as yet.

On invitation one Assistant Director, National Archives of India visited Shillong in September 1981 for discussion on various problems relating to setting up of Meghalaya State Archives and gave general guidelines in this behalf.

5.2.7.4 Resolution VII: Mindful of the vital importance and large volume of old records extant in the oriental languages like Persian written in Shikasta script, Modi, Marathi, Old Rajasthani, Tamil, Oriya etc. the Commission urges the Government of India, the State Governments, the archival repositories and the universities to provide facilities and incentives urgently for the study of these languages and scripts.

National Archives of India: The School of Archival Studies has recently introduced an optional paper in reading and interpretation of documents in Persian/ Rajasthani/Marathi/Malayalam/Portuguese in One Year Diploma Course. Moreover, the Department of Culture has included a scheme in the Sixth Five Year Plan for providing fellowships covering different disciplines including epigraphy, paleography, extinct languages, scripts etc. with a proposed outlay of Rs.10 lakhs for 1980-85. The scheme is in operation from 1980-81.

Goa: The contents are noted and the Government will be moved for its implementation in due course.

Gujarat: The State Archives has circulated the recommendations to the universities and learned institutions in Gujarat requesting them to provide necessary facilities for the study of oriental languages. The Gujarat Vidyapith has informed that they are teaching urdu as a part of their syllabus while South Gujarat University, Surat has informed that Executive Committee of the University has taken a note of the resolution.

Gujarat Vidyapith: The Vidyapith is hoping to create some facilities for teaching Persian written in Shikasta script and old Rajasthani.

Jammu & Kashmir: The State Archives has reported that it has been providing all possible facilities to Research Scholars for the study of Manuscripts/Records in Oriental languages.

Kerala: The State Government has reported that it has been seized of the necessity to impart sufficient knowledge in the old scripts of Kerala (viz. Old Tamil, Old Malayalam, and Grantha scripts) to those who are engaged or likely to engage in deciphering records in these scripts. The question of instituting a course on this subject in the Institute of Public Administration, Trivandrum is now under the consideration of the State Government.

Maharaja Sayaji Rao University of Baroda: The Resolution is under the consideration of the Syndicate Board of the University.

Mysore University: The University has made provision for the studies of Tamil & Persian both at undergraduate and post-graduate levels among the languages mentioned in the resolution.

Punjab: The Resolution is being referred to the Government for consideration for providing facilities and incentives to those employees who are interested in the study of Persian/Urdu.

Rajasthan: The subject has been incorporated in the syllabus of "Short Term Training Course", conducted by the State Archives. The State Government is requested for its implementation in the universities.

5.2.7.5 Resolution IX: In view of the fact that the Constitution of the Indian Historical Records Commission clearly emphasises that lack of trained archivists continues seriously to impede the archival work in the country, it is resolved that personnel recruited to all the archival posts should be trained Archivists.

Jammu & Kashmir: The State Archives has only 12 trained officials. Those officials who fulfil the conditions of eligibility are being sent for training to the National Archives of India, New Delhi.

5.2.8 Resolutions of the 47th Session, Delhi, 19-20th May, 1981.

5.2.8.1 Recommendation regarding conveying of condolences for the demise of the members of the Commission to the members of the bereaved families.

National Archives of India: The Secretary to the Commission forwarded the condolences to the next of their kin.

5.2.8.2 Resolution I: Resolved further that all staff who are entrusted with the maintenance and preservation of taluq and village panchayat records be required to undergo a short term course in record preservation in consultation with the State Archives and Universities.

Andhra Pradesh: The State Archives of Andhra Pradesh has drawn up a scheme for training the staff entrusted with the maintenance and preservation of Taluq records etc., but the Board of Revenue has not approved the said scheme.

Dadra & Nagar Haveli: The staff who are to be selected for Archives work will be deputed for training for scientific preservation of records.

Goa: Necessary action is being taken to implement this Resolution.

Haryana: The resolution is under consideration of the State Government.

Karnataka: The State Archives has requested the State Government to issue instructions to the Heads of Departments', Deputy Commissioners and Divisional Commissioners to transfer the historical documents of pre-1900 period pertaining to village/taluq/tehsil records under their jurisdiction to the State Archives for their permanent preservation. The reply is awaited from the State Government and will be communicated in due course.

Nagaland: The State Archives has so far few records of villages/taluqs/tehsils. Hence preparation of their check lists is not possible. However, the contents of the resolution have been noted for preservation and preparation of checklists of such records when their bulk would increase in the repository.

Orissa: The Resolution is now under the active consideration of the State Government.

Rajasthan: State Government has issued a circular letter to all the Heads of Departments and District Collectors for the implementation of the Resolution and to establish contact with the Director, Rajasthan State Archives in this connection.

Tamil Nadu: The orders are awaited from the State Government for implementation of the Resolution.

Visva-Bharati University: West Bengal Government has initiated a major move for the listing and preservation of district level records in the State. The first pilot project will be based at Suri and is intended to cover the district records of Birbhum.

West Bengal: State Archives has requested the Board of Revenue, Government of West Bengal to initiate steps to preserve the archival heritage of the State at the district and village level on the lines recommended by Indian Historical Records Commission.

As far as training of record room staff for preservation of old records is concerned, the State Archives at present imparts short term training to the personnel attached to the record room of the various State Government Offices.

5.2.8.3 Resolution II: Resolved that the Departmental Records Rooms attached to their respective Departments, Divisions, Districts and other offices, be re-organised on scientific lines. In view of the basic minimum requirements, there should be financial provisions in their sectoral budgets. The attention of the State Governments may be drawn to this very important phenomenon for the needful.

Dadra & Nagar Haveli: The Administration has initiated to start a separate cell for Archives and Government of India has been approached for the creation of various posts for this office.

Delhi: Steps will be taken to enlighten the various Departments to improve the working conditions of the Departmental Record Rooms under efficient record management programme.

Goa: The Government of Goa, Daman and Diu has been moved to implement the resolution and decision arrived at in this matter will be conveyed in due course.

Gujarat: The State Government will be moved to implement the resolution as recommended by the Commission.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Resolution has been forwarded to the State Government for initiating necessary steps to reorganise Departmental Record Rooms on scientific lines.

Kerala: The Resolution is under consideration of the State Government.

Orissa: The Resolution is under active consideration of the State Government.

Rajasthan: The Resolution is under the consideration of the State Government.

Tamil Nadu: The orders are awaited from the State Government.

West Bengal: State Archives has requested the Board of Revenue, Government of West Bengal to initiate steps to preserve the archival heritage of the state at district and village level on the lines recommended by Indian Historical Records Commission.

5.2.8.4 Resolution III: Resolved that the Indian Historical Records Commission should set up a Committee to make a list of religious institutions of national importance which have archives and to suggest ways and means of making these archives available for study.

National Archives of India: Government of India have since constituted a sub-Committee for the records of the Religious Institutions.

5.2.8.5 Resolution IV: The Commission resolved that a publication programme pertaining to the early nineteenth century records available in the Maharashtra Archives, Bombay be planned and suitable collection with critical notes and annotations may be prepared.

Maharashtra: The Resolution is under active consideration of the State Government. The Director of Maharashtra State Archives has been asked by the State Government to prepare a scheme for its implemention.

5.2.8.6 Resolution V: The Commission resolves that early steps be taken to publish suitable descriptive lists and statistical abstracts of the documents in the Inayat Jang Collection of the National Archives; further, an appropriate committee may be appointed to undertake this task.

National Archives of India: At the instance of the National Archives of India the Government of India has constituted a Committee with the following members to advise the National Archives of India on the Publication of abstracts of Inayat Jang Collection:

(i)	Prof.S.Nurul Hasan	...	Chairman
(ii)	Prof.Satishchandra	...	Member
(iii)	Dr.P.M.Joshi	...	Member
(iv)	Prof.J.S.Grewal	...	Member
(v)	Prof.S.C.Misra	...	Member
(vi)	Prof.S.A.I.Tirmizi	...	Member-Secretary

The first meeting of the Committee was held at the National Archives of India on 26th December, 1981. It was agreed that in the first instance the documents of Aurangzeb's reign may be calendared in five volumes. The Committee was unanimously of the opinion that the Director of Archives should be the General Editor of this series. The editing of the volume is recommended to the following Members:

(i)	Prof.S.Nurul Hasan	...	New Delhi
(ii)	Prof.J.S.Grewal	...	Amritsar
(iii)	Prof.S.C.Misra	...	Vadodara
(iv)	Prof.Satish Chandra	...	New Delhi
(v)	Prof.S.A.I.Tirmizi	...	New Delhi

Each volume is to be completed within a period of two years.

5.2.8.7 Resolution VI & VII: The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to the Indian History Congress to constitute a separate section of Archival Studies at its academic session.

Resolved that in order to create Archival consciousness and to make research in history more oriented, fruitful and convenient, Archives be incorporated as a section in the Indian History Congress. The Indian History Congress may be requested in this direction.

National Archives of India: The Resolution was forwarded to the Indian History Congress for its implementation. Reply is awaited.

5.2.8.8 Resolution VIII: The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to the Indian Universities to introduce Archival Science as one of the optional papers at the post-graduate level. This paper should include practicals in Archival Administration to be conducted by archival repositories in respective areas.

The Resolution was forwarded to the universities and their responses are summarised hereunder:-

Delhi University: The University fully appreciates the importance of the proposal but due to limited resources and lack of competence in the field, it is not possible to introduce Archival Science as an optional paper at the post-graduate level at this stage.

Gujarat Vidyapith: One year post-graduate certificate course in Preservation and Management of Archives is already being conducted by the Vidyapith.

Jabalpur University: The matter will be placed before the Faculty of Social Sciences for consideration.

Madras University: The School of Archival Studies has been requested for syllabus and list of books for study to consider the possibility of introducing this subject as one of the optional papers at the post-graduate level. The relevant material has been furnished.

Maharaja Sayaji Rao University of Baroda: A Committee is appointed to work out the details in this behalf. The report of the committee, duly finalised, will be placed directly before the Faculty of Arts and then the Syndicate for consideration. The final decision when taken will be communicated to the Indian Historical Records Commission.

Mysore University: University is keen to introduce a paper on Archival Science as one of the optional papers at the post-graduate level. The School of Archival Studies has been requested for syllabus and books for study for being placed before the Board of Studies for approval. The relevant material has been furnished.

Osmania University: The proposal was submitted to the Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and to the Head of the Department of History for their comments. Subsequently, the matter was referred to the Chairman, Board of Studies in History.

Poona University: The Resolution has been forwarded to the Deputy Registrar (Academic), University of Poona for consideration and necessary action.

Sardar Patel University: The University agrees to introduce Archival Science as an optional paper at M.A. (History) provided necessary financial aid is provided to run the course.

Saurashtra University: The School of Archival Studies has been requested to send the detailed syllabus. The relevant material has been furnished.

Shivaji University: The matter is under consideration of the University authorities.

Utkal University: The Resolution has been forwarded to the Professor of History, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar to place it before the Syndicate of the University.

Vikram University Ujjain: The Resolution is under the consideration of the Chairman, Board of Studies in History.

Visva-Bharati: As there are no qualified teachers to impart training in Archival Science, the Resolution cannot be implemented at present.

5.2.8.9 Resolution IX: Resolved that as a convention it may be adopted that Head of the National Archives of India which is the premier organisation on the field of archival administration and management in the country, during his tenure of office may be invited by the various archival organisations of the Ministries of the Central Government as well as by the various State Governments (Archives Departments) to discuss and review their mutual problems of record management and administration and other allied matters and suggest some salient points by way of a review report to the concerned Government.

Delhi: The Resolution has been accepted in principal.

Goa: The Resolution is accepted in principle. The Director, National Archives of India, will be invited as and when the need arises.

Gujarat: The Resolution has practically been adopted by the State Archives.

Haryana: The Resolution is under consideration of the State Government.

Karnataka: The Resolution has been accepted and the State Archives has invited the Director, National Archives of India to visit their Archives and review the problems pertaining to archival development in this state.

Kerala: The State Government agrees in principle to the Resolution and the Director of State Archives would seek the guidence of the Director, National Archives of India, if necessary, by inviting him to the State on problems of mutual interest about records management and administration and other allied matters.

Maharashtra: The Resolution has been accepted by the State Government.

Nagaland: The State Government will invite the Director, National Archives of India when necessity arises.

Orissa: The State Government have accepted the Resolution in principle.

Rajasthan: The matter is under the consideration of the State Government and the decision taken in this behalf will be intimated.

Tamil Nadu: The orders are awaited from the State Government.

West Bengal: The State Archives has accepted the Resolution in principle and invitation to the Director, National Archives of India would be extended as and when necessary.

5.2.8.10 Resolution X: The State Record Offices should be advised by Committees which would be consulted in the maintenance, equipment and other major archival problems. These Advisory Committees should include the members of the Commission belonging to the respective State and an officer of the National Archives of India should be nominated to this Committee. It should meet at least twice a year.

Delhi: The Administration is in full agreement for setting up of the Advisory Committee. There is a Regional Records Survey Committee constituted in Delhi, whose functions are more or less advisory. The said Committee also includes members of the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Director of National Archives.

Since there is already a Committee, there appears no need or necessity to set up another Committee as recommended by the Indian Historical Records Commission.

Goa: The Archival Council for the Union Territory of Goa, Daman & Diu has been constituted and Director, National Archives of India nominated as one of the members.

Gujarat: State Archives has already submitted a proposal for the formation of the State Archival Council to the Government of Gujarat for expert advice on the matter of maintenance, equipment and other archival problems as also recommended by Record Management Committee.

Haryana: The Resolution is under consideration of the State Government.

Karnataka: The Resolution is noted for furture implementation and action will be taken in this regard in due course after the approval of the State Government.

Kerala: The State Archives has an Advisory Committee.

Maharashtra: The Resolution regarding the formation of an Advisory Committee in the State is under consideration of this Government.

Nagaland: There shall be no formation of Archival Advisory Committee till such time that the non-current records are collected from concerned Archives Offices and Institutions

Orissa: There is an Advisory Council for Museum, Archaeology and Archives in the State. The question of formation of an Advisory Committee exclusively for Archives will be taken up after the formation of a Central Advisory Committee.

Rajasthan: The Resolution is under the consideration of the State Government. The Decision taken will be intimated.

Tamil Nadu: The orders are awaited from the State Government.

5.2.8.11 Resolution XI: The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that the National Archives of India should obtain microfilm copies of the records pertaining to the Indian Colony in Astrakhan (in USSR) which are available in the Central State Archives of Ancient Documents in Moscow, USSR.

National Archives of India: The Embassy of India has taken up this matter with the Chief Archives Department, Council of Ministers of the USSR and informed that material when received from the Soviet side would be transmitted immediately.

5.2.8.12 Resolution XII: Resolved that the practice of obtaining copies of notes and transcripts from research scholars working on 'open records' be discontinued forthwith in all State Record Offices. This practice has been given up since long in the National Archives of India.

Andaman & Nicobar: The contents of the Resolution have been kept in view for future guidance.

Dadra and Nagar Haveli: No scholars are working in the State Record Rooms of this Union Territory.

Delhi: The Resolution has been accepted in principle and the recommendations of the same will be implemented as and when there is the need to do so.

Goa: The contents of the Resolution have been noted and the Government will be moved to adopt it for the Union Territory of Goa, Daman & Diu in consultation with the Archival Council which has been recently constituted and the decision arrived at will be conveyed accordingly.

Gujarat: The State Government has already given up the practice of scrutiny of excerpts from the open records and it has also thrown open records which are more than 30 years old to the bonafide research scholars.

Jammu & Kashmir: The practice of obtaining copies of notes and transcripts from research scholars working on open records has already been discontinued in keeping with the spirit of Resolution.

Karnataka: The State Archives does not insist on obtaining copies of notes and transcripts from research scholars consulting open records as per research rules in vogue in that Archives.

Maharashtra: The Resolution has already been implemented by the State Government.

Nagaland: The practice of obtaining copies of notes from research scholars has been discontinued.

Uttar Pradesh: The Government of Uttar Pradesh has asked the Director of State Archives (Uttar Pradesh) to take necessary action in this behalf.

Tamil Nadu: The orders in this behalf are awaited from the State Government.

5.2.8.13 Resolution XIII: Resolved that the retiring Directors of Archives should be included in the Indian Historical Records Commission as its members in accordance with Para 3(b) of the Department of Culture Resolution No.F.22-1/74-CAI(2) dated 1st November 1974, provided they happen to be professional archivists.

National Archives of India: The Government of India have noted the contents of the Resolution for their guidance as and when the Commission would be reconstituted.

5.2.8.14 Resolution XIV: Reiterating its earlier Resolution on the subject, the Indian Historical Records Commission resolved that in appointing heads of archives departments at the centre and in the States all possible efforts should be made to ensure that the selected persons have adequate training and/or experience on Archives administration.

Delhi: The Resolution has been accepted in principle and the recommendations will be implemented as and when the occasion arises.

Goa: The Resolution has been noted and the Government is being moved to implement it. The decision taken in this behalf will be conveyed in due course.

Gujarat: There is a separate Archives Department in the State. Shri C.B.Pandeya, the present Director of Archives is a trained Archivist possessing qualification in One Year Diploma Course on Archives

Keeping from National Archives of India, New Delhi and he has served more than 5 years as Superintendent in the Gujarat State Archives.

Kerala: The post of the Director of Archives in Kerala has already been filled up. The spirit of the Resolution will be taken up for future guidance.

Nagaland: The principles of this Resolution shall be followed as and when occasion arises for filling up of such posts in the State.

Jammu & Kashmir: There is no separate Department of Archives. Instead there is Department of Archives, Libraries, and Museums. A generalist is posted as Head of this Department. There are various technical posts in the Department, which are manned by trained personnel in Archives, Libraries and Museums.

Rajasthan: The head of the State Archives is fulfilling the qualifications of adequate training and experience in Archives administration. Besides the State Archives has made provision for such educational and professional qualifications for the post of Director in its Service Regulations.

Uttar Pradesh: The State Government has accepted the Resolution.

5.2.8.15 Recommendation I: Regarding submission of reports by the Heads of State/Union Territory Archives to the Director, National Archives of India on International Archival Conferences attended by them.

Andaman & Nicobar: Recommendation has been noted for future guidance.

Delhi: Instructions have been noted for guidance.

Goa: The Government have taken note of the contents of the Recommendation and follow-up action will be pursued.

Gujarat: The Director of Gujarat State Archives has addressed the Secretary, Government of Gujarat, Education Department informing him that whenever the Director, Gujarat State Archives would attend the International Archival Conference, report to that effect would be submitted to the Director, National Archives of India to enable him to prepare a comprehensive report for the Commission.

Nagaland: State Government has informed the Director, Art and Culture Department regarding submission of report to the Director, National Archives of India.

Rajasthan: The report will be sent to the Director, National Archives of India, New Delhi provided the Government accepts the Resolution.

Uttar Pradesh: The Director of Uttar Pradesh State Archives has been instructed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to submit report on International Archival Conferences to the Director, National Archives of India as and when he attends such Conferences.

5.2.8.16 Recommendation II: The Commission resolves that the Government of India be requested to treat the National Archives of India annexe as a functional building and give top priority to its construction, which is absolutely essential for the National Archives of India to effectively discharge its responsibilities, and particularly to implement the Archival Policy Resolution which requires to accept the custody of millions of the non-current public records lying scattered and neglected in various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

National Archives of India: The revised estimate for the 7 storey tower block (stacks) with its connection with the existing building, Electric Sub-station etc. as per decision taken in the inter-Department meeting held on 23.2.81 yet awaits necessary Administrative approval and Expenditure Sanction of the Government.

5.2.8.17 Recommendation III: The Commission notes with regret that inspite of its earlier recommendation, vide Resolution No.IV of its 31st Session held in 1955 and Resolution 3(A) of the 36th Session held in 1961, the Government of India had not so far made arrangements for the manufacture of the Standard Quality Paper recommended by the Indian Standards Institution in consultation with the National Archives of India, with the result that the Union and State Governments as well as others, were obliged to use low quality paper for their permanent records. The Commission, therefore, strongly recommends that urgent measures be adopted either for manufacturing this paper in India, as in the long-run the use of quality paper for permanent records would not only prove more economical but is absolutely essential, keeping in view the importance of these records for the future generations.

National Archives of India: Clear and firm guidelines to be followed by the Ministries/Departments for the use of good quality papers for the records of permanent value were prepared and sent to the Department of Culture for approval.

5.2.9

Motion of Condolence and Resolution by Members

5.2.9.1 Motion of Condolence: The Members of the Commission are aware of the sad loss to the world of History and in the field of Archives as also to the Commission by the demise of very distinguished personages who have been associated with this Commission at one time or the other namely -

(i) Dr. Niharranjan Ray, Calcutta University, Calcutta and

(ii) Dr. K.K. Datta, Patna University, Patna.

Resolution: "The Members of the Indian Historical Records Commission assembled at Ahmedabad for the 48th Session of the Commission deeply mourn the death of Dr. Niharranjan Ray and Dr. K.K. Datta and resolve that sincere condolences of the Commission be conveyed to the next of their kin".

5.2.9.2

Resolutions by Members

5.2.9.2.1

Preservation of Records

5.2.9.2.1.1

Preservation, Checklisting and Cataloguing of Manuscripts and Records of Certain Premier Scientific Institutions in Calcutta

Resolution by Dr. Barun De

The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to the National Archives of India that it take note of records of certain Government Departments concerned with scientific activity and the survey of information, such as the Botanical Survey of India, the Geological Survey of India and of other private societies, such as the Agro-Horticultural Society of India, Asiatic Society, the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science and the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad and prevails upon them to set up small archival cells in each organisation for the maintenance of valuable archival material and records concerning the origins of modern science in India; and that it initiates activities with regard to inspection of these records with a view to proper checklisting and cataloguing as well as microfilming for preservation in the National Archives, as far as possible.

Explanatory Note: For a long time it has been vaguely known that there are masses of official and demi-official correspondence preserved in the record sections of two oldest Surveys

of India set up by the British Imperial Government for the purpose of assessing the natural resources of India. However, this material has never been properly surveyed and its value as records has never been assessed by archival skill. At one time, the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal took in interest in the history of science in India and as a fall out of this there was a publication by Dr. K.P. Biswas, Curator of the Botanical Gardens in Calcutta of material in the Botanical Gardens relating to the origins of modern European style botany in Calcutta. However, very little follow up has been done on Dr. Biswas's work. By the same token, it has been sporadically known that there are valuable collections of private records relating to the history of science in private repositories in Calcutta, such as the manuscripts and notes of the late Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray's History of Indian Chemistry in the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad and old records and Minute Books of the Asiatic Society at 1, Park Street, etc. About six years ago, a proposal was put up from the Asiatic Society for a grant by the Indian Council of Historical Research in proper order and as far as the memory of my Membership of Council goes, this proposal was duly processed and perhaps a small grant was sanctioned. No further information was available on that count. In general, consolidated information is necessary for scholars wishing to work on the history of science in India relating to the availability of such records in the old British Indian capitals.

Recently, Shri Deepak Kumar, a Research Scholar of Kurukshetra and Delhi, who is preparing his Ph.D. thesis on

the History of Science in 19th Century India has found a variety of records in different repositories in Calcutta and his survey deserves to be taken in public notice.

For instance, in the Botanical Survey of India (Shibpur, Howrah District), the higher authorities did not appear to know that the Survey has a record room. The Librarian on the other hand gave the information that there existed about 20,000 letters of correspondence of Robert Kyd, Roxburgh, Nathaniel Wallich and others (all noted Botanists of the early 19th century) with the British authorities in Calcutta, including the Government of Bengal, and certain leading botanists in other parts of the world. Initial permission to inspect the records was difficult to obtain, but the Deputy Director in charge of the Botanical Gardens was kind enough to let Shri Kumar visit his establishment office where masses of manuscripts were piled in heaps on a wooden plank suspended in the air near the ceiling. Many old files which had been stacked on the ground floor had been destroyed when flood waters of the River Hooghly entered the premises in October 1978. Better preservation and cataloguing of these manuscripts would be invaluable for the history of botany in India.

At the Geological Survey of India at Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Calcutta, preservation and maintenance is better, since there is a formal library. However, here also the old manuscripts are gathering dust and moth for want of adequate archival care and to the best of my knowledge no sound catalogue is available in print. However, the Geological Survey of India

records comprise the history of industrial mineral prospects all over India as a part of the economic efforts of British colonialism.

There are no record rooms as such in the Asiatic Society, and in the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, one of which was set up in the 18th century and other in the 19th century. It would be interesting to know what has happened to their correspondence which originated at the time of their establishment and during the long course of their development.

It is however refreshing to find the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India carefully maintaining its old records and books. But the manuscripts have not been catalogued or checklisted.

Bangiya Sahitya Parishad is a private Society with an invaluable library of rare manuscripts and books, started in the late 19th century with its first President, R.C. Dutt, I.C.S., Shri Kumar mentions that he was astounded to find the Parishad asking for Rs.6/- per page for arranging xerox copies of a particular tract. Re.1/- was the actual charge at market price, but Rs.5/- more was asked as a donation for the Society which has exiguous funds.

In view of these circumstances, and also in view of the fact that a study of such documents and tracts can lead to a better understanding of material conditions of our country and our people in the 19th century, a salvage operation on a coordinated scale should be carried out. The following steps may be taken:-

(i) It would certainly not be advisable to shift the bulk of the documents to the National Archives and indeed to any central point in Calcutta, in view of the scarcity of funds for the purpose. It would be better if the premier scientific institutions with a historical tradition, such as the Survey of India at Dehra Dun (whose records were initially analysed by Col. Phillimore), the Geological Survey of India and the Botanical Survey of India at Howrah were requested by Government to create small archival cells in their respective departments, each with one or two archivists, so that their treasures could be properly catalogued and preserved. A total preservation of every document is not advocated. The help of professional historians, to be formed into a committee for this purpose by the National Archives of India, could easily be obtained for sifting the materials.

(ii) As the creation of archival cells might prove to be a long drawn affair, a compact mobile group of archivists and historians should immediately be formed as an urgent measure to make on-the-spot surveys in and around the metropolitan cities and advise ways and means for immediate salvage operations.

(iii) Most large Government institutions have reprographic facilities, but this is not the case in autonomous and private ones. For instance, the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad and the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India have extremely rich collections but have no means to reproduce or reprograph, particularly old and brittle ones. It is suggested that Government or bodies like the Indian

Council of Historical Research could give grants for purchase of xerox machines to financially weak and historically rich institutions to be identified by the group mentioned in para (ii) above and thereby encourage reprography or duplication of material already on the verge of extinction. The National Archives of India should, also as an urgent measure, take up a project for microfilming such materials.

Standing Committee's views:

The Archival Policy Resolution issued by the Government of India in 1972 provides that "all records and files selected for permanent preservation should be transferred to the National Archives of India 25 years after being closed or recorded, as laid down in the Manual of Office Procedure". Accordingly the records of the Central Government in the custody of the Botanical Survey of India and Geological Survey of India are to be transferred to the National Archives of India. The National Archives of India is in correspondence with the aforesaid institutions in this behalf.

The remaining institutions referred to in the Explanatory Note are either autonomous or private bodies and as such National Archives of India may be approached to tender technical advice to these institutions, if and when required.

5.2.9.2.1.2

Preservation of the National Sample Survey Records in the Department of Statistics

Resolution by Dr. D.P. Bhattacharya

Resolved that the Commission moves the Department of Statistics for preservation of the National Sample Survey Records in a proper form.

Explanatory Note: The National Sample Survey started in 1950 jointly at the initiative of the late Professor P.C. Mahalanobis and Dr. C.D. Deshmukh with the blessings of late Jawaharlal Nehru. It is the only large scale scientific sample survey on a continuous basis in the world. It throws a flood of light on social, economic and cultural life of the country on a quantitative basis. The National Sample Survey was taken over by the Government of India from the Indian Statistical Institute around 1970. Records are partly lying with the Institute and partly with the Government. It is understood that preservation has become a problem.

Though the records are not 30 years old, a lack of preservation and consequent damage and destruction of records will be a national loss as it will deprive the future socio-economic historian from using one of the most authentic sources of data. The Commission may, therefore, take steps to examine the position and to move towards a gradual takeover to prevent any possible loss or damage.

Standing Committee's views

Under the Archival Policy Resolution records of permanent value can be transferred to the National Archives of India after due appraisal only if they are 25 years old.

The Survey was under the administrative control of the Indian Statistical Institute, an autonomous body, till 1970, and thereafter has become a Government organisation and is under the control of Department of Statistics and as such the Central Government records in its custody do not

appear to be more than two decades old. The National Archives of India may, however, be approached for technical advice, if necessary.

5.2.9.2.1.3
Preservation of Vital Records

Resolution by Prof. S.A.I. Tirmizi:

Resolved that the vital records pertaining to births and deaths spread all over the country be properly preserved by the Registrar-General and microfilms thereof be made available to scholars for purposes of research.

Explanatory Note: The vital records constitute an important source for demographic studies. Their importance has been realised in the western countries and this material is being increasingly utilised by research scholars for demographical studies. In India, such studies have not been undertaken primarily because such records are not available for purposes of research. In fact, very little is known about the state of their preservation, It is apprehended that if no steps are initiated to preserve them on scientific lines immediately, this important source material will be lost to posterity. In order to promote research in demographic studies, it is imperative that records of deaths and births are microfilmed after suitably blackouting the reasons of death of individuals which cannot be revealed under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. These microfilm copies could be kept with the Genealogical Society of India which is at present headquartered at the National Archives of India.

Standing Committee's Views:

Clause 17 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 provides that "(1) Subject to any rules made in this

behalf by the State Government, including rules relating to the payment of fees and postal charges, any person may —

(a) Cause a search to be made by the Registrar for any entry in a register of births and deaths; and (b) obtain an extract from such register relating to any birth or death.

Provided that no extract relating to any death, issued to any person, should disclose the particulars regarding the cause of death as entered in the register.

(2) All extracts given under the section shall be certified by the Registrar or any other officer authorised by the State Government to give such extracts as provided in section 76 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving the birth or death to which the entry relates."

In view of the above stipulation the vital records could be microfilmed after blackouting the cause of death. This would go a long way in encouraging the demographical as well as genealogical studies which are in a state of infancy in our country. The Resolution, therefore, deserves full support.

5.2.9.2.2

Acquisition of Microfilm Copies from Abroad

5.2.9.2.2.1

Acquisition of microfilm copies of records on Indian Revolutionaries from France

Resolution by Prof. Mohibbul Hasan:

The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that the National Archives of India should obtain microfilm copies from the Archives Nationales, Paris, relating to the revolutionary movement in India during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Explanatory Note: A file entitled Revolutionaries Hindous in the National Archives, Paris, throws light on the activities of a number of Indian revolutionaries like Shimajee, Amar Dutt, Ratan Dorab Tata, Savarkar and others, who having escaped for fear of arrest from Britain and India, tried to organise revolutionary and anti-British movements in the security and freedom of Paris. They maintained with the Indian revolutionaries in India and Europe. The file also contains some of their correspondence, French police reports of their activities and press cuttings about them of the French Newspapers like Le Matin and L'Humanit and others. There are also references to German agents like Weiss and Madame Cama who helped in organising anti-British acitivities and paid secret visits to India. It further gives full account of the extradition of Savarkar to the British after his escape from Mauritius.

Standing Committee's Views:

A similar resolution was passed at the 37th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Delhi in October, 1966 recommending that letters, documents, journals and other original writings relating to the Indian revolutionaries abroad be procured and preserved at the National Archives of India (Resolution V).

In pursuance of the policy of the Government of India the National Archives of India since 1948 has been acquiring from abroad microfilm copies of records of Indian interest bearing on Modern Indian History, including among others the

papers concerning the Indian revolutionaries abroad. This item is generally given high priority in the acquisition programme of the National Archives of India. This is evident from the Guide to Microfilms from Abroad recently brought out by the National Archives of India.

5.2.9.2.2.2

Acquisition of copies of records on Shawl trade from USSR

Resolution by Professor Mohibbul Hasan

The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that the National Archives of India should acquire documents from the Soviet Union relating to the shawl trade between Kashmir and Moscow and the various towns in Central Asia and on the Volga.

Explanatory Note: Shawls from Srinagar were carried to the markets in Samarkand, Bukhara, Tiflis, Astrakhan, Baku and Moscow by Armenians, Turks, Khirgis and by Kashmiris themselves. Moscow was an important centre of the shawl trade in Europe, and merchants went there from various European countries to purchase Kashmir shawls and Kashmir shawl wool. Tiflis (modern Tbilisi), the capital of Georgian S.S.R., with its large Armenian population, was very prosperous, and an important market for shawl trade, which was carried on by the Armenian and Kashmiri merchants. Tiflis had two bazaars which were the centres of this trade. Annual fairs were quite common in the towns on the Volga and in these fairs large scales of shawl wool and shawls were transacted.

Standing Committee's Views:

A similar Resolution was passed at the 37th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission (Resolution VII)

urging the Government of India to acquire microfilm copies of records of Indian interest available in the archival repositories and libraries of U.S.S.R. especially in Armenia, Azarbaijan and Uzbekistan.

Prof. N.K. Sinha and the then Director of Archives visited U.S.S.R. in March 1964 under the Indo-Soviet Cultural Exchange Programme and their itinary covered Archives repositories and libraries at Moscow, Leningrad, Erivan, Tashkent and Samarkhand. A list of papers of Indian interest in these repositories had been obtained from the Government of U.S.S.R. for getting their microfilm copies.

Under an earlier bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme between India and U.S.S.R. in 1967, this Department has received 7 rolls comprising 1974 exposures of records of Indian interest from U.S.S.R.

Subsequently the National Archives of India has already approached through the Embassy of India in Moscow to obtain a list of records of Indian interest available in the Archives of U.S.S.R. including the earlier records of the Central Asia dating back to the 17th century with a view to acquire their microfilm copies under the Indo-USSR Cultural Exchange programme. Two Russian Archivists visited the National Archives of India in November, 1981 under the Indo-USSR Cultural Exchange Programme and submitted a draft bilateral agreement to be signed between the Archival Organisations of the two countries which inter-alia, envisages exchange of copies of archival material of mutual interest, as also exchange of archival literature and publications, and joint

publication of records on Indo-Soviet relations available in the Archives of both countries.

5.2.9.2.3

Administration

5.2.9.2.3.1

Staffing Pattern on the basis of quantum of record holdings

Resolution by Shri C.B. Pandya:

The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that the National Archives of India should study the question of staff requirements for Department of Archives in the states as well as departmental record rooms of various sizes depending upon the quantum of record holdings and prescribe a uniform pattern of staffing.

Explanatory Note: National Archives, Government of India has prescribed norms for various item of work to be carried out by the record offices as well as by the Department of Archives. These norms are being followed by the State Archives in the country as authority. On account of adoption of the Archival Policy Resolution the department of Archives has been made responsible for various items of work enumerated in the Archival Policy Resolution. But at the same time proposals for different posts for undertaking various items in record offices as well as in Archives Department viz. filing, indexing, classification, scrutiny of retention schedules, appraisal and review, maintenance, preservation and weeding out of records are being refuted for want of norms for staffing pattern depending upon the quantum of records holdings. It has therefore, become necessary that the National Archives of India should look into the matter and undertake the study and prescribe uniform staffing pattern for various posts for the department of Archives and departmental

record rooms so that it may become easy for convincing the Government for obtaining various posts on the basis of quantum of record holdings.

Standing Committee's Views:

The Resolution does not fall within the purview of the Commission. The mover of the Resolution may refer the matter to the Archival Council which is being constituted by the Government of Gujarat.

5.2.9.2.3.2
Upgrading of the status of Orissa State Archives to that of a Directorate

Resolution by Dr. P.K. Mishra

Resolved that the status of the Orissa State Archives, Bhubaneswar be raised to a Directorate like other State Archives of India.

Explanatory Note: The Orissa State Archives, Bhubaneswar has the necessary infrastructure and accommodation required for a Directorate. Its functioning will be more conducive to the growth of historical research if the status is raised to that of a Directorate, instead of keeping it under the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Orissa, as is the case at present.

Standing Committee's Views:

The Resolution appears to be beyond the jurisdiction of the Commission and as such the matter could be referred to the Government of Orissa by the mover of the Resolution.

5.2.9.2.4

Residential accommodation for visiting research scholars

Resolution by Prof. S. Bhattacharya:

In view of the fact that the National Archives of India cannot provide residential accommodation to visiting research scholars and that the resolution in this regard passed at the 41st Session in 1971 has not produced tangible results, the Commission resolves that the Government of India be requested, as an interim measure, to earmark for this purpose a set of rooms in one of the hostels for members of IAS: resolved further that the Secretary be authorised to constitute a sub-committee to pursue this matter and to frame rules and regulations for the allotment of such rooms as may be made available.

Explanatory Note: The Resolution is self-explanatory and a note, redundant, residential facilities are available in State Archives, e.g. those of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, etc. according to the reports provided by the Indian Historical Records Commission. In New Delhi research scholars are usually advised to seek accommodation in the Sapru House Hostel which has poor facilities and often happens to be fully booked.

Standing Committee's Views:

The Indian Historical Records Commission passed a a Resolution requesting the National Archives of India and State Archives to make available residential accommodation to bonafide research scholars at reasonable rates (Resolution XV, 41st Session, Trivandrum, 1971). The Resolution was forwarded to the State/Union Territory Governments for implementation. The residential facilities are reported to have been provided in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

A meeting of a group of officers set up by the Department of Culture, Government of India, to examine the

question of providing suitable accommodation at economical rates for the scholars coming from outside Delhi and wanting to work in the National Archives of India and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi was held on 1st December, 1975. The "Group" felt that the Sapru House Hostel offered the best available accommodation, particularly in view of the central location and reasonable rates of rent. Five research scholars were provided accommodation facilities there during 1975-76 while 12 scholars from various universities availed themselves of the facilities in the Gomti Guest House, New Delhi during 1977-78.

The hostel accommodation at the Kasturba Gandhi Marg, and Western Court, New Delhi is under the control of the Directorate of Estates, Government of India, which could be requested to reserve about a dozen rooms for the use of the scholars working in the Research Room of the National Archives of India. Both the places are located at a distance of about a furlong from the National Archives of India and have boarding facilities as well.

5.2.9.2.5

Transfer of erstwhile Pondicherry Records in the possession of France to the Government of India

Resolution by Prof. G.S. Dikshit

Resolved that the Government of India should approach the Government of France for return of all records transferred by the Government of France from Pondicherry to their country on the eve of the merger of Pondicherry with the Union of India in 1956.

Explanatory Note: On the eve of the merger of Pondicherry with the Union of India in 1956 the Government of France removed all important records of their Pondicherry administration to France, leaving only a few less important ones at Pondicherry. Perhaps, such removal was provided for in the terms and conditions of the merger of the enclave with India. Even if that were so it was in clear violation of archival principles enunciated by the French themselves which clearly rule out such transfer and dispersal. It is possible that considerations of storage space might have weighed with the Government of India in 1956 more than the archival principles or interests of research scholars of this country. With the opening of Records Centre at Pondicherry by the National Archives of India in January 1979, the problem of space has been partially solved. It is now possible to store these records at Pondicherry itself. If the French Government finds some difficulty in returning the originals they should certainly find no difficulty in providing free of cost microfilm copies of these records for the use of Indian Scholars. These records are nearly four centuries old, and form valuable source material for the history of particularly South Indian powers, also for economic history of the whole of India, besides being our rightful cultural heritage. It is noteworthy that neither U.K. nor Portugal the other colonial powers in India, have not deprived us of our records rightfully belonging to us in this manner.

Standing Committee's Views:

The National Archives of India has approached the Government of France through the Embassy of India to supply

the microfilm copies of all records which were taken away by the Government of France from Pondicherry and Chandernagore before these territories were merged with the Indian Union. These records are housed at the Depot des Archives d' Outre Mer, Chemin du Moulin de Testas, les Fenouilleres. The Ministry for External Relations of France, after having studied the possibilities for financing the operation, has regretted to abandon the project for lack of sufficient funds.

In view of the above the Government of India may be requested to finance the whole microfilm programme.

5.2.9.2.6

Setting up of a regional records repository of the National Archives of India in the eastern region of India

Resolution by Prof. Hiren Chakraborty:

A regional records repository of the National Archives of India be set up in the eastern region of India to house the non-current records of the various offices, institutions and undertakings of the Government of India in the eastern region.

Explanatory Note: A large number of non-current records is lying scattered in various offices of the central government, its undertakings and autonomous bodies, in eastern India. These records are mostly very old and are in deplorable state of preservation. Institutions and organisations like the Botanical Survey of India, the Geological Survey of India, the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the Port Authority, the Railways and many other central government offices have their headquarters at Calcutta and in the adjoining areas. The records of these offices by their very nature constitute an important source-material for the socio-economic history of the country. Records accumulated in these offices are generally destroyed at

periodical intervals or are disposed of as waste paper. Unless some immediate steps are taken to centralise these records in a regional repository and necessary arrangements made for their preservation, they will be lost for ever to posterity and this will mean a permanent loss to historical research in future. The National Archives of India has already opened three regional archival repositories at Jaipur, Pondicherry and Bhopal. It is now incumbent on the part of the National Archives to open another regional archival repository in eastern India, preferably in Calcutta or its neighbourhood, to house such records.

Standing Committee's views: The National Archives of India has a scheme for opening regional record centres in different regions of the country. During the Fifth Five Year Plan two centres, one each at Jaipur and Pondicherry, were opened and in the Sixth Plan period it was proposed to open two more regional centres, one each in the Northern and North Eastern Region to house records of the Central Government Offices located in the respective regions. Moreover, these centres are required to acquire private papers of national importance as also to tender technical assistance and advice to the State Government institutions and agencies in matters of preservation and reprography.

It may be mentioned in this connection that the Secretary, North East India Council for Social Science Research, Shillong had earlier forwarded to the National Archives of India a resolution passed by its governing body for opening a regional centre of the National Archives of India in a suitable place

in the North Eastern Region so as to remove existing inadequacies in the maintenance of valuable records as also to facilitate historical research in that region. The National Archives of India had then sought the assistance of the Council in locating a suitable building for the proposed centre.

The National Archives of India has also addressed a letter to the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya seeking his comments on the proposal. But there has not been any response so far.

5.2.9.2.7
Microfilming of the records in the Shankaracharya Mutt at Sringeri, Karnataka.

Resolution by Dr. Suryanath Kamath:

Resolved that the National Archives of India be requested to complete the work of microfilming the records in the Shankaracharya Mutt at Sringeri, Karnataka.

Explanatory Note: In accordance with the Resolution passed at the 40th and 41st (Resolution-VIII) Sessions of the Indian Historical Records Commission, the National Archives of India microfilmed 314 kaditas housed in the Sringeri Mutt. These records throw light on the relations of the Mutt with Mysore, the Nizam, the Marathas and other dynasties of the times, and also on the religious, social and economic conditions during the last two centuries and thereof of national importance.

However many more records which had not been fully examined earlier have now been examined and a list of the records has been prepared. Hence the records should be microfilmed by the National Archives of India and be made

available to research scholars. Opportunity may also be availed by the microfilm unit of National Archives of India to microfilm the records of the Parthagali Math in Goa during its visit to Sringeri.

Standing Committee's Views:

There are a number of Kadatas and Nirupas available with the Sringeri Math, Sringeri, Karnataka which contain useful information about the political, social and economic history of the region covering the last 1250 years or more. These were inspected during 1972 by Professor G.S. Dikshit of Karnataka University, the then Director of Archives, National Archives of India and the Special Officer, State Archives, Karnataka. Earlier during 1970, the Rajyapal of Karnataka had also recommended to the Government of India for the microfilming of these records. In 1974 the mobile microfilm unit of the National Archives of India was sent to Sringeri Math for microfilming the records of the Math. The unit microfilmed all those records which were selected and listed by the State Archives. This job involved preparation of 13,665 exposures running into 20 rolls.

The National Archives of India may consider microfilming of the remaining records as and when such request is received from the State Archives.

5.2.9.2.8
Access to Records

Resolution by Shri J.K. Jain:

Resolved that a system of sliding scale to open records which have attained the age of thirty years may be accepted by the various archives of the country.

Explanatory Note: At present, the National Archives of India and most of the State Archives have accepted the thirty years rule to open their records for research purposes. This facility could be further liberalized if there are standing orders to open records which have attained the age of thirty years at the end of a particular calendar year, until and unless there are fresh restrictions imposed by the concerned creating agency. This system of automatic up-grading of the chronological limit for open period of record would go a long way to give a much desired relief to the scholars and avoid futile correspondence, and at the same time keep research in our country at par with others.

Standing Committee's Views:

The Archival Policy Resolution provided that all non-confidential public records more than 30 years old, transferred to the National Archives of India, would be opened to the bonafide research scholars subject to such exceptions and restrictions as may be found necessary by the Department concerned. As such records which have attained the age of thirty years at the end of a particular calendar year are thrown open to the scholars. So far five State Governments of Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra and Orissa, and the Union Territory of Delhi have adopted the Archival Policy Resolution. Adoption of Archival Policy Resolution in other States/Union Territories in similar way solve the problem.

Publication in English of calendars of important Series of Portuguese Records

Resolution by Prof. G.M. Moraes:

Resolved that a committee of experts be set up for advising the Directorate of Archives (Government of Goa, Daman and Diu) in the preparation and publication in English of calendars of the Series: Moncoes do Reino (Monsoon Records as popularly known, 1560-1914) for the use of scholars working in the field of the medieval period of Indian history.

Explanatory Note: In view of the rapidly diminishing ranks of scholars well-versed in deciphering and interpreting Portuguese records, it is most urgent that the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu takes immediate steps for the preparation and publication in English of calendars of important series of records in the Historical Archives of Goa.

The moncoes do Reino afford a clear picture of the interstatal relations in medieval India as observed by Portuguese authorities, besides yielding material for the economic and social history of the period.

I have been of the opinion since delving into Portuguese records - an opinion which finds support in the late Sir Jadunath Sarkar's Shivaji and his Times - that the Historical Archives of Goa contains material which, when systematically studied, is capable of revolutionizing the history of medieval India as it has come down to us through British and other sources.

In order to implement the project it is essential that a committee be appointed, consisting of the following scholars:

1. Prof. Nurul Hasan (in personal capacity as Chairman)
2. Prof. S.A.I. Tirmizi (in personal capacity)
3. Rev. Dr. John Correia Afonso
4. Dr. B.S. Shastri
5. Prof. Mathew (Baroda)
6. Prof. G.M. Moraes

with

Dr. P.P. Shirodkar in his official capacity as Secretary thereof.

Standing Committee's views:

In pursuance of Resolution V passed at the 47th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission, the Government of India have constituted a Committee to advise the National Archives of India on Publication of Descriptive Lists/Calendars and preparation of Statistical Abstracts of the Inayat Jang Collection Similarly the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu may like to constitute a Committee for advising the Directorate of Goa Archives for publication in English of calendars of important Portuguese records housed in that Archives. In addition to the names referred to in the Explanatory Note Dr. Titonio D' Souza may also be associated with the publication programme of the Portuguese records.

A selection for publication of these records with a critical introduction and annotations will go a long way to meet the needs of the students and research scholars. The Resolution deserves full support.